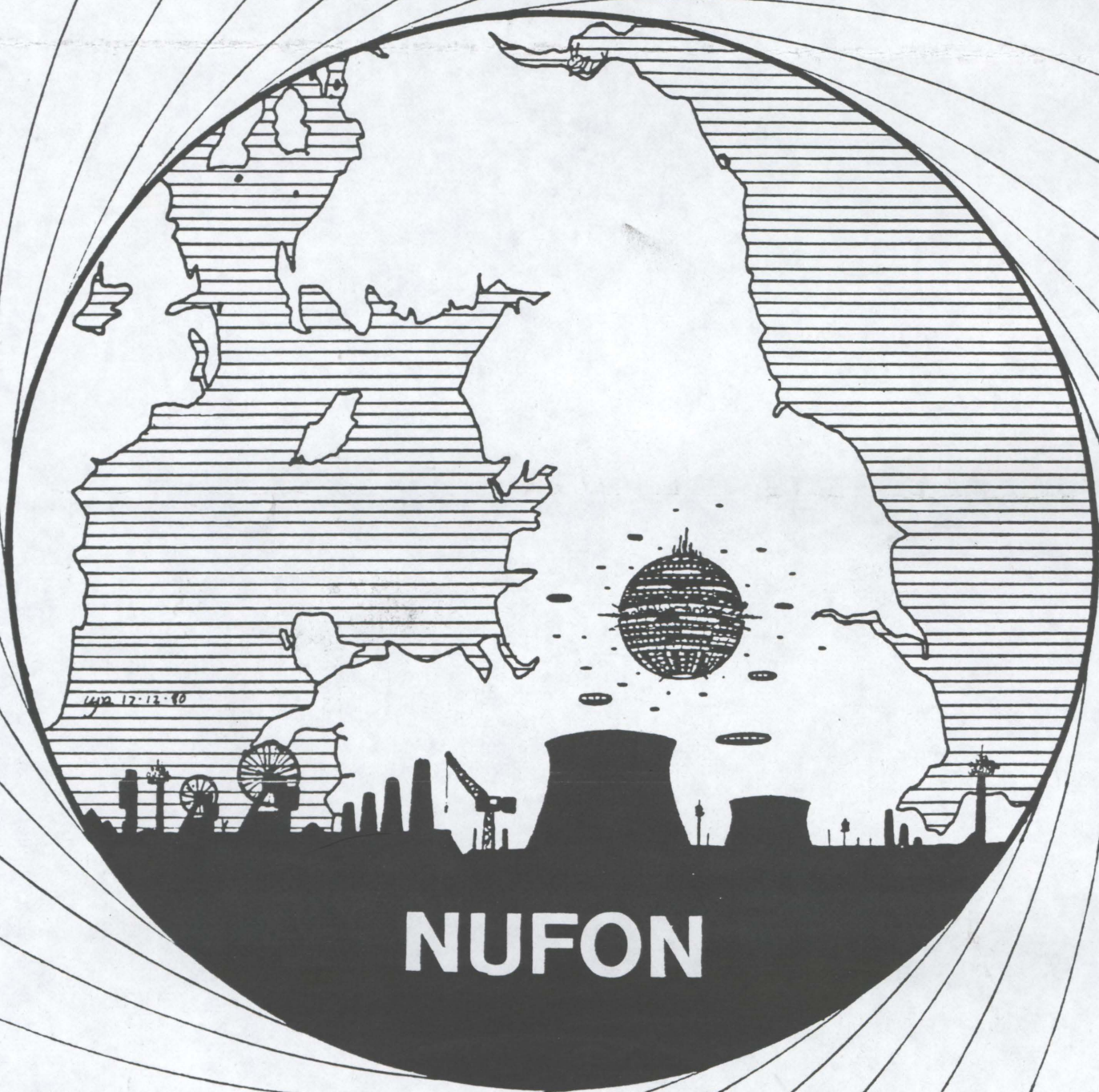


NORTHERN UFO NEWS



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Editorial: A theory that finally works?

About two years ago my only knowledge of the piezo-electric effect was from dim memories of physics 'A' level. I knew it had something to do with pressure on certain crystals (eg quartz) causing them to vibrate and emit an electrical signal. It had its uses, so I understood...but not in terms of UFOs.

Then I discovered Dr Michael Persinger's theories connecting the effect with UFOs (largely thanks to Ken Phillips, who was perceptive enough to spot the significance immediately). Persinger and his colleague, Guy Lafreniere had in 1979 published Space-Time Transients and unusual events (no UK edition sadly). It had been widely ignored but it postulated that various anomalies (including UFOs) had a geophysical trigger...and the piezo-electric effect began to come into its own.

Persinger continued to work quietly on his theory, and at about the time I discovered him he produced a major paper correlating the effect with UFOs in Richard Haines book UFO phenomena and the behavioural scientist (well worth a gander). Of course, there had been mentions of this sort of thing before. FSR had published research linking UFOs with French fault lines. FORTEAN TIMES had surveyed the same sort of possibility in a more general sense. Meanwhile my concept of UFOs had been formulating through my books. I saw a two-part solution to the problem (as explained most explicitly in Alien Contact). There was a subjective 'consciousness' phenomenon, of some sort and some origin. And there was an objective, physical but natural effect which I preferred to call a UAP (to distinguish it totally from the usual spaceship trappings). In the light of this UAP the Persinger hypothesis made a great deal of sense.

During 1981 I began to see a familiar aphorism validated. An idea had 'found its time'. This suggests that when something is ready to be plucked from the sea of the collective consciousness then several people close to its thinking do so at once, thus reinforcing its impact. I found this out by experience but claim no right at having discovered it. (Science historian Kuhn and Dr Lyall Watson both saw it.) It appeared at this time when I began working on an inter-continental book with David Sargeant (author of UFOs: A scientific enigma). We were going to write our own theoretical sections. But found that we both agreed on practically everything! He too had discovered piezo-electricity. I then learnt from Paul Devereux (editor of The Ley Hunter) that he was very much on the trail and writing his own book which would propose a startling correlation between piezo-electricity, UFOs, megaliths and fault-lines. Indeed he wrote to Common Ground criticising me for not taking note of physical UFOs quite unaware that I was writing my third book for Robert Hale (UFO Reality) and, amongst much else, making many discoveries about ionisation, Persinger's effect and UFOs. UFO Reality was completed in January and really says about all I think I can say theoretically about UFO origin (both kinds of UFO that is!) It was disturbingly long (over 100,000 words) and in view of the publishing recession I have had to work with Hale to seriously reduce this length, by no means easy without hindering the flow of my argument. It will be published around Summer 1983.

I have since written a fifth book (probably my last on UFOs for quite some time) Pennine UFO Mystery will be out in paperback around the same time as the Hale book. This looks in detail at the wave of 'mystery helicopter' sightings since 1972 in the Pennines, and goes on to look at the Adamski death and the Alan Godfrey abduction. Giving nothing much away I can say it turned out very well for Persinger and a really surprising number of things slotted into place and filled up gaping holes. It was my most satisfying book to write to date.

Over the next year I suspect the Persinger effect may well take firm hold. For before my books, next month will bring the BBC Horizon programme featuring film of the effect and an interview with Persinger, plus publication of Paul Devereux's book Earth Lights. I gather some people already have review copies and it looks as important as I suspect it should be. (Paul is offering signed first editions for £11, post inc, from PO BOX 13, Welshpool, Powys...should be well worth it) And I understand Persinger is writing his own new book as well. It may not sound a very romantic theory but it is a testable one and it seems to work. Recent lecture audiences to whom I have expounded it react rather well too. Which is good. I do not believe any serious researcher can refuse to take note of this important concept.

NUN Sept 1982...TWO

NEWS.... It is very sad to have to record the death, on August 20, of Anne Harcourt, a long-time servant of the BUFORA council. Her sudden death after contracting a virulent disease abroad was a shock and great loss to her friends and colleagues.

On a happier note Scots ufologist Tam O'Neill has announced the founding of ANSA (although as to what this stands for I have no 'ansa'...groan!) It will cover UFOs, psychic phenomena, mysteries, astronomy, science-fiction, space travel and by the sound of it anything you can think of! Monthly newsletters, a journal called INFINITY and special events are all promised. Details from Tam at:-
73 Torbrex Rd Cumbernauld Glasgow G67 2JU SCOTLAND

Surrey group, SIGAP, have had to cancel production of PEGASUS for the time being due to the recession. And some delays to FSR are anticipated due to illness to editor Charles Bowen (who is now recovering slowly...get well soon, Charles). Gordon Creighton is taking over for the time being.

Ken Phillips has noted two new hazards for the investigator. 'Solar powered UFOs' are being offered for £3.50 by Hopes (a London SW2 firm) They proudly boast ...'onlookers simply cannot believe their eyes...can be seen for miles...' What next! Advertising planes, that's what. According to Ken Britain is all set to legalise them this autumn...and a read of Allen Hendry's UFO HANDBOOK will tell you what fun US investigators have with them. Reserve your place at the asylum now!

Over on the Lancashire coast laser beams have been the problem. The 1982 Blackpool lights use them in their show...and local police have been inundated with calls reporting the dancing beams as flying saucers!

A case via The Unexplained (from a 13 yr old) comes complete with his picture of what an alien looks like (not that he has seen one) and asks for other 'cute' pics from the investigators! He claims to have seen a 'cigar-shaped disc' (?) and adds..."it wasn't a bird, and it wasn't a plane, and it wasn't superman either... it was a UFO!"

Meanwhile a letter received from Nigel Watson territory reads as follows:
"I am writing to because I am a keen ufo investigator. PLEASE could you send me something about the subject I will pay for package PLEASE could you tell me how to become a ufo investigator a professional investigator." signed, etc
Any helpful tips???

ELSEWHERE THIS MONTH... MAGONIA 10, not to be missed..full issue devoted to the latest work of Lawson & McCall explaining UFO abductions as repressed memories of the birth trauma (£2, pa 64 Alric Ave, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4JW) COMMON GROUND 6, looks neat in its new style..has a review of the Salzburg psychological UFOs congress plus a variety of interesting stuff..including Alan Garner (author of the most grown-up and thought provoking kiddies books I have ever read, eg The Weirdstone of Brisingamen) (£4, pa 14 Northfold Rd Knighton Leicester LE2 3YG) BUFORA BULLETIN, 005 is a great deal better too. Nice new style by the editor and plenty of meat inside once again. Rotten cover though!...BUFOS (British UFO Soc.) have published their first n/1 too. Not for sale, except as part of membership, but possibly on exchange. A couple of West Midlands cases inc. (BUFOS 85 Chelford Cres, High Acres, Kingswinford, West Mid DY6 8PA) Finally, must mention that UFO RESEARCH MIDLANDS have published their first issue of UFORM NEWS. Basically for members of the Midlands network it is neatly produced but is mostly 'newsy'. Outsiders can get it for 25p (UFORM 23 Linden Rd Hinckley Leicestershire LE10 0AR)

BREAKTHROUGHS... What is the most important discovery in the past decade of UFO research? That question arose in discussion between Peter Warrington and myself. Peter's choice (with which I would not disagree) is the so-obvious yet overlooked point made by Allen Hendry that as 90% of our data are identified it is these we should turn to for answers. Perhaps this insight will one day be seen as the equivalent of Einstein's appreciation of the interchangeability between mass and energy. My choice is a bit more ephemeral. It is the recognition that UFOs is a catch-all term for several phenomena. That it is a mistake to think there is only one solution. No doubt you have your own view of the one breakthrough that has revolutionised your concept of the phenomenon. Tell us about it for publication.

NB: The editor is expected to move house any day soon. This may cause delays in the November issue. Please forward all mail to Birchwood (my family still live here)

NB: A review copy of Paul Devereux's Earth Lights has just been received (see editorial). A review will appear at the next possible opportunity.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT...

Believe it or not - the BBC made this three part series in all honesty.

Believe it or not - their programme on Wednesday, August 18, was supposedly about the mysteries of earth, outer space and Rochdale.

Believe it or not - Patrick Moore set a new world record for saying the most load of old cobblers in the shortest ever space of time.

Believe it or not - some poor soul talking away in venusian was not Patrick Moore with a speech impediment (even though he was just as fast and talked just as incomprehensibly).

Believe it or not - the Flat Earth Society, Richard Lawrence, his Aetherian twits and the man who sold Big Ben, have nothing to do with UFOs - much.

Believe it or not - the BBC sent a letter of apology because the interview they recorded with me apparantly did not fit the programmes 'style' (thank God!) (I shall count it as my proudest achievement that I said nothing even mildly controversial to that gook Bernard Falk, despite his trick questions disguised as total naiveties).

Believe it or not - witness Mike Savks came over quite well, a bloom of sanity in a rose field of loonies.

Believe it or not - the film was made in Bacup, which the BBC moved to Rochdale because, quote, "nobody will have ever heard of Bacup".

Believe it or not - the BBC do not publish the ordnance survey.

UP & COMING:

TV... (Scheduled) October ¹⁸~~23~~ (repeat October ²⁴~~31~~) BBC-2 screens the long awaited Horizon documentary on UFOs. It promises to be skeptical, but to include some interesting interviews with US ufologists, Paul Devereux, who has seen some of it, concurs and tells me..."You are dead right...I had a conversation with the producer, John Groom, and I am afraid it became a little heated. He is an Oxbridge Beeb type, very superior, confident that he alone sees the whole UFO biz clearly and when pushed feels there is no objective reality to the UFO phenomenon but patronisingly thinks that the fact that many people do think so is of interest itself" (Groom threatened to Peter and I that this was how he would round-off the programme...but he has since assured us it does have its positive side. We shall see.... More hopeful (much more hopeful in fact) is an ITV networked children's series called THE FINAL FRONTIER, about space and future science. It goes out Wednesdays at 4.45 pm and if you can catch it then do so. It presents the subject in a fun but educational way. I have been working with the production team since May on a 15 minute feature for the last show (to be transmitted November 3). I was even able to help write the script. It is all in the can now and I will write more about it next month. But it looks as if it might "bring UFOs down to earth" which is the motto we all worked to in producing the feature.

On the behaviour of saucers and sponges.... Bill Dillon

Frequently in UFO literature we see accounts of UFOs possessing the remarkable ability to de-materialise, or sometimes fragment into several objects. However, I am aware of only one instance where human observers had the good fortune to be on hand at the presumed reversal of this process. Evidently, this initial appearance is not what I expected. I had a mental picture of an object suddenly occupying once empty space. But the case in question is that involving teachers, Stephen Gill and Roger Baird, who on 16 April 1972, in Nepal, watched as a number of "flying groups of dots", like swarming bees, organised themselves into eight or nine 'flying saucers'. When they began to take photographs the objects vanished leaving in place a number of smoke rings. It occurred to me that the 1954 BOAC case at Labrador (see latest FSR) has much in common. Captain Howard, the pilot, said "The large object was continually, slowly, changing shape, in the way that a swarm of bees might alter its appearance."

May I suggest that the same essential process might have been at work in both cases. Another case that may be of relevance is that of forestry worker Robert Taylor (FSR Vol 25 No 6). He likened the UFO he saw at close range to a texture

not unlike sandpaper, in effect a massive concentration of 'dots'. Perhaps we may now ask: at some unspecified stage in their manifestation are UFOs something akin to flying pieces of information which can be regulated into any shape or form as desired by the mechanisms controllers? This would explain much of the diversity experienced within the UFO phenomenon.

David Attenborough, in his excellent book 'Life on earth' highlights the remarkable ability of the sponge (Ch 1, pp 26)..."If a sponge is forced through a fine gauze sieve so that it is broken down into separate cells, these will eventually reorganise themselves into a sponge, each kind of cell finding its appropriate place within the body. Most remarkable of all, if you take two sponges and treat them both in this extreme way and then mix cells from the two they will reconstitute themselves into a single mixed-parentage entity." He adds, "Other sponges secrete tiny needles, called spicules, either of lime or silica, which mesh together to form a scaffold in which the cells are set. How one cell orientates itself and produces its spicules so that they fit perfectly into the overall design is totally unknown."

I cannot be helped but stand impressed at this apparant similarity in behaviour. Is there a genuine connection? We humans often find that what we assume are good ideas generated by ourselves are already in operation somewhere in nature. Perhaps to be assured that a new method is as sound as we would like we should merely insist upon finding an example of the process, in operation within the real environment!

We now seem faced with two postulates: (1) UFOs are produced by a natural process lieing beyond our present understand; (2) An intelligent agency of some sort enjoys much higher command over certain of natures parameters than we ourselves and has integrated this knowledge into its technology or equivalent.

Perhaps just because we can extract so much information from 'ufo displays' we see the reason why we are receiving them. Can we now attempt to interpret, and then implement, these fantastic abilities into our own science framework? Our imaginations are seemingly fuelled all the time by this UFO stimulus and its 'intimidation strategem'. I am reminded of a remark by Albert Einstein..."Imagination is more powerful than knowledge. It enlarges your vision, stretches your mind, challenges the impossible. Without imagination thought comes to a halt."

William Shakespeare was also well aware of the message I have tried to project "You reach into the heavens to grasp an idea, then you bring it down to earth and make it work." The UFO intelligence seems indifferent to the character of our response and is evidently quite content to leave the interpretation up to ourselves. I hope we make the correct choice. Our very existance may depend on it.

In the light of what I have read so far of the Paul Devereux book this article, submitted during August, makes, should I say, interesting reading! JR

***** I N V E S T I G A T I O N *****

In recent years Nigel Watson & Granville Oldroyd have done a great deal of valuable work digging up newspaper accounts of 'Airship' sightings from the first British waves of 1909 and 1913. Recently David Clarke has joined them (see the current Magic Saucer). Filed with NUFON now (as case 1305) is the latest fruit of their labours, surveying a wave of close encounters around York between Feb 21 and 25 1913. It is hoped that the long promissed book on these events sees the light of day very soon. It will be of considerable importance and interest....

STRANGE ATMOSPHERIC PHENOMENON... I am grateful to Dr Michele Clare from Sheffield for being persuaded to describe a strange thing she saw whilst on holiday at Calan Porter, Menorca, on either the 9th or 10th of July 1982. It was 10pm (local time) and the sun had just set behind the cliff in a cloudless sky. (Just a few

SW

very tiny clouds, in fact... behind which the object appeared to pass) The object was in a V shape, not unlike a comet, and the apparant width of a finger at arms length. It was very distinct and moved downwards, towards the cliff, taking about 10 secs before fading out. Her husband was called in time to see this.

The clouds moved across the path and so it was not drifting. A number of ideas have been suggested (a jet burning fuel, for example) Michele wonders about a meteor re-entry. What about a rocket launch? ANY SUGGESTIONS?

- 172... 23 Nov 76 17.00 Ilkley Moor, W Yorks N.Mortimer Lev B
Man & wife saw green sphere moving 'v fast'. Disintegrated.... Probable METEOR
- 82... 26 SEP 80 06.30 Oldham, Gtr Manchester BUFORA Lev D
Very large W LITS, stationary for long time in SE.... Definitely VENUS
- 65... 09 Feb 81 19.00 Accrington, Lancashire J.Morris (BUFORA) C
Green sphere seen by 2 witnesses for 10 secs drifting N-S. Size of 2p at arms length. Tried electric lighter in presence. It worked!.... Could be BALL LIGHTNING.
- 66... ?? Mar 81 19.00 Oswaldtwistle, Lancs J.Morris (BUFORA) C
Same reporting witness above (man) called out to street by three other men to see pale blue oval (pea-size at arms length) moving at incredible speed from NW to NE over Pennines. Seemed to 'skip like a pebble over water'. Unknown

(Both these reports on BUFORA files may refer to the piezo-electric effect)

- 13... 11 JAN 82 19.20 Ilkley, W. Yorks N.Mortimer Lev B
Another Pennine UAP? Witness saw brilliant W oval, size of pea at arms length, shot in arc from NE to S in 3/4 secs. Father had seen similar object earlier in same area (November 1981). Objects surrounded by 'halo' effect.... Meteors??
- 18... 10 AUG 82 00.10+ Woodhouse Eaves, Leics M.Brown (UFORM) A
Amusing case report describing how witness saw flashing orange LITS (with search light) on three successive nights on top Beacon Hill. On third night Mark set off to confront the alien terror and met it face to face! It was a mining survey team fixing a new site!... close... Arthur Scargill is a weird humanoid, isn't he?
- 19... 23 AUG 82 22.25 Wallsend, Tyne & Wear BUFORA Lev D
Silver tube with orange flames from rear moving E-W "bloody fast". In view 3 seconds. Several witnesses called Newcastle Airport.... FIREBALL METEOR.

155... DEC 79 20.30 Bury, Gtr Manchester MEDIUM DEFINITION

Woman riding horse down village lane on cold clear night. Saw brilliant light over church (directly above spire). Thought at first it was a star but then it grew very much in size and became an intense, orange oval. After about 5 mins it shot off at incredible speed to NE disappearing over horizon in seconds. No effect on the horse!!! Ball lightning?? MUFORA Level C

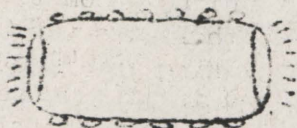
- 15... 28 APR 82 20.20 Greenhill, Leics M.Brown (UFORM) Lev A
Girl & boyfriend saw orange/red oval plus blob which stayed in one place but changed to a pure oval and then diminished in size. In view 4 mins. It reappeared some moments later in same spot and repeated the performance. Investigation concluded it to be a glider that was proven in flight, reflecting sunlight.
- 20... 25 AUG 82 21.40 Dundee, Scotland J.Randles Lev C
Two boys saw silver cigar with tail fin moving slowly across the sky. Object looked and behaved exactly like an aircraft... presumably what it was!!

The Pickup Bank Encounter.... MUFORA Investigation by Mike Sacks

Investigation was launched by a Lancashire Evening Post article and photo (on which Norman Collinson wryly announced... "Even the bloody dog is smiling!") An interview occurred 12 days after the sighting, which was on July 17 1982.

A 32 yr old furniture manufacturer from Darwen, Lancs, had gone up onto Pickup Bank (a hilly area NE of the town) to use his CB radio to chat with friends. As it was a Friday/Saturday his wife and two sons (aged 19 and 8) went with him. None of the witnesses claim to have seen the movie CLOSE ENCOUNTERS, even on TV.

At 01.30 a bright light 'burst out of nowhere' above the hill ahead of their parked car. It moved to the right and vanished. They dismissed it but 20 mins later there was an explosion of light in the sky... "The cloud lit up... it literally lit up!" It was full of blue & orange beams of light. Then three balls of bright light of this blue/orange colour emerged, split up and shot off in three different directions. Two east, towards Rossendale and one south, towards Bolton. There was no sound, despite the moors being desolate. He reported it over the airwaves, which were soon buzzing with the news and considering possible explanations!



JUN Sept 1982 ...SIX

At this point one of the children said he could hear a buzzing and they all became frightened. The father opened the window and said he could hear the sound 'in my head'. One of the kids, looking up through the window, said there was a UFO above them and there was panic. The father looked up and saw it, a large oil drum with a red front and green rear. It was surrounded by exploding flashes of white light and hovered immediately above them. They fled the scene and called the police.

MUFORA investigations noted the comparison with the 1977 Nelson case (although neither car nor radio suffered any effects in this new case). Readers of the Pennine UFO Mystery will also find interesting comparisons with an experience Norman Collinson had in November 1980, described therein.

The Piezo-electric effect in action? Investigation by Mark Brown of UFORM

An Electronics Project Engineer and his wife observed a brilliant white light in daylight directly above some powerlines to the east of his position in Thurlaston, Leicestershire... Date April 28 1982 (see case 82-15 previous page) Time 19.15. It was visible for 5 seconds and faded out. The case report is most impressive for its detailed consideration of the phenomenon in the light of the piezo-electric effect possibility (which Mark Brown has been pursuing for some months due to the apparent prevalence of light-ball UFOs in Leicestershire and their proximity to mine workings and fault zones in the area) (Paul Devereux, in consultation on this case, points out that the counties most visible fault is at Croft Hill, within 1 1/2 miles of the sighting location.... Is this report the shape of things to come

Another case of moonshine? Investigation by David Clarke for BUFORA

This is an impressive case report by a very young and yet most efficient investigator. The incident concerned involves two mature female night-nurses at the Doncaster Royal Infirmary, South Yorkshire. Date March 16 1981.... At 04.00 a hazy white patch of light appeared in the south above a filling station and remained in this position, low on the horizon. As the women watched it took on the distinct shape of a domed saucer "just like a drawing". The top remained stationary whilst the lower part revolved in a clockwise direction, showing a line of white lights. The witness claims to have eventually seen the craft extremely clearly and at one point even noted portholes on the edge. Had the ward not been as busy as it was the women would have gone outside. After 30 minutes observation the object faded into a light and simply disappeared into haze.

David inspected the site and took photographs, and from the fourth floor vantage point it was clear the objects elevation was very low. He even went back at 04.00 to count the traffic passing by! The witnesses do not seem to believe an astronomical explanation was possible, but David astutely pointed out it might be if records were available. It is fairly easy to discover the moon's position on any date from ephemerides. And I did so. It was just where the UFO was and set at about 04.30! It seems, therefore, that yet again the moon (plus low level mist?) has caused two witnesses to exaggerate greatly and produce what otherwise sounds like an impressive encounter with a UFO 'forming out of the ectoplasmic mists'!

Landing with traces in South Yorkshire? BUFORA report by Richard Adams & Paul January 21 1981 07.00 Ridgeway, Sheffield, South Yorks Fuller

Another superb case report from these two Geography graduates (exemplifying the marvellous trend that is sweeping our subject). This concerns a farmer's wife running Birdfield Farm on her own (her husband is dead). On this morning she saw a strange phenomenon in a ploughed field adjacent to her land. From the kitchen she could see a triangular tent-like object, grey in colour, with three 'sack-like' lumps arranged around it. This was about 150 M from her position and their size was on the order of 1-2 metres. She watched this off and on for an hour, went out shopping and on return at 10.30 nothing was there. A check with the field's owner revealed no clues. Two days later whilst selling vegetables to a man she found deep cuts in the field consistent with the location of the phenomenon. These were photographed (copies in the report). The investigation suggested a tent (unlikely though due to the precise location). But no real answer was found. The witness subsequently had strange crystalline images on her TV and saw a LITS UFO (all within weeks of the above). A full report on this case will be featured elsewhere.

